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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/712,794 | 11/12/2003 | Robert D. Westcott | 1083-66502 | 7783 |

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EXAMINER

MANOHARAN, VIRGINIA

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1764

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-33 drawn to a distillation system, classified in class 202, subclass 160.
- II. Claims 34-41, drawn to a distillation method/process of heating liquid in a vessel , classified in class 203, subclass 2.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process/method and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus such as: distillation system in combination with a reverse osmosis unit; a system as described by applicant, illustrated by U. S. Patent 4,929,312, at paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 and of the instant specification.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification; and because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia Manoharan whose telephone number is 571-272-1450.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola, can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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